

DESERT-LAND ENTRYMEN

JANUARY 13, 1925.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. SINNOTT, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 10411]

The Committee on the Public Lands, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10411) granting desert-land entrymen an extension of time for making final proof, having considered the same, report it to the House with the recommendation that it do pass without amendment.

The purpose of the proposed measure is to grant extension of time within which to submit final proof upon any desert-land entry in addition to the extensions authorized by existing laws. The reasons for the enactment of the measure are fully explained in the letter of the Secretary of the Interior, dated January 3, 1925, to the chairman of this committee, which letter is herein set out in full for the information of the House, as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 3, 1925.

Hon. N. J. SINNOTT,
*Chairman Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. SINNOTT: I am in receipt of your letter of December 15, 1924, inclosing copy of H. R. 10411, entitled "A bill granting desert-land entrymen an extension of time for making final proof."

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to grant extension of time within which to submit final proof upon any desert-land entry in addition to the extensions authorized by existing laws. The terms of the proposed legislation are broad enough to permit of the granting of extensions of time in the case of desert-land entries coming within the purview of the act of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1161), as amended by the act of March 21, 1918 (40 Stat. 458), as well as all entries initiated since March 4, 1915, and which are subject to the general acts of March 28, 1908 (35 Stat. 52), and April 30, 1912 (37 Stat. 106).

Under existing regulations every precaution is taken to prevent the allowance of desert-land applications where it is apparent, owing to engineering obstacles, lack of water supply, or other cause, that there is no reasonable prospect of reclaiming the land.

Under existing legislation, a tract of public land embraced in a desert-land entry may be segregated from the public domain for a period of 10 years. Ordinarily this period is sufficient to cover accidents which may prevent a desert-land claimant from complying with the requirements of law within the statutory period. I would therefore not favor a law generally extending the time within which to submit proof on desert-land entries. However, H. R. 10411 makes the granting of additional extensions discretionary with the Secretary of the Interior, and prescribes the condition that entryman shall have complied with the requirements of the law so far as possible, and shall show to the Secretary that there is a reasonable prospect that he will be able to make the proof of reclamation and cultivation required by law, if the extension is granted.

There are some instances where desert lands covered by existing entries will be reclaimed by proposed Government reclamation projects or extensions thereof, and in other cases by private projects.

In meritorious cases of this kind, it would seem both to the advantage of the Government and of the entryman that some discretion be vested in the Secretary of the Interior. Accordingly I have to advise you that this department has no objection to interpose to the enactment of the measure.

Sincerely yours,

HUBERT WORK, *Secretary.*

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Mr. Work, from the Committee on the Public Lands, submitted the following

REPORT

TO THE SENATE, JANUARY 1, 1927.

The Committee on the Public Lands of the Senate has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, dated January 1, 1927, in which he has advised the Committee of the action of the Secretary in relation to the bill (H. R. 10411) granting desert-land entries and extending the time for making final proof, having explained the same, and in which he has also stated that he has recommended that it be passed.

The purpose of the proposed measure is to grant extensions of time within which to submit final proof upon any desert-land entryman who is unable to do so within the time prescribed by existing laws. The Committee has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, dated January 1, 1927, in which he has explained the action of the Secretary in relation to the bill (H. R. 10411) granting desert-land entries and extending the time for making final proof, and in which he has also stated that he has recommended that it be passed.

On January 1, 1927, the Secretary of the Interior has advised the Committee of the action of the Secretary in relation to the bill (H. R. 10411) granting desert-land entries and extending the time for making final proof, and in which he has also stated that he has recommended that it be passed.

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